

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14, 24 and 25, such that the pending claims 1-29 are as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A method for introducing a tube into a borehole in the ground, comprising the actions of:

~~comprising~~ composing said tube by connecting successive tube parts end-to-end in a connecting area, and

axially displacing at least a composed section of ~~said tube from said connecting area~~ ~~towards~~ said tube from said connecting area towards said borehole and introducing at least a substantial portion of said tube or said composed section thereof into said borehole,

32 said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from the borehole, and said axial displacement of said tube or said composed section thereof from said connecting area to said borehole proceeding along an at least partially curved path,

characterized in that said connection of successive tube parts end-to-end into said tube is completed before said tube is brought in communication with said borehole.

2.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said path along which said tube or said composed section thereof is displaced includes at least one complete winding.

3.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said path along which said tube or said composed section thereof is displaced includes at least a spiral or helical portion.

4.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said tube parts are oriented at an angle to a topmost portion of said borehole during said connection of said tube parts.

5.(Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said tube parts are oriented substantially horizontally during said connection of said tube parts.

6.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said tube or said composed section thereof is plastically bent to a curved shape where it enters a curved portion of said path.

7.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein plastically bent portions of said tube or said composed section thereof are plastically straightened where it leaves said curved portion of said path.

B2 8.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein maximum total deformation during said bending into said curved shape is less than 2%.

9.(Previously Presented) A method for introducing a tube into a borehole in the ground, comprising the actions of:

composing said tube by connecting successive tube parts end-to-end in a connecting area, and

axially displacing at least a composed section of said tube from said connecting area towards said borehole and introducing at least a substantial portion of said tube or said composed section thereof into said borehole,

said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from the borehole, and said axial displacement of said tube or said composed section thereof from said connecting area to said borehole proceeding along an at least partially curved path, characterized in that portions of said tube or said composed section thereof proceeding along said curved path are bent into at most one single curve.

10.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said tube or said composed section thereof is plastically bent to a curved shape where it enters a curved portion of said path, wherein plastically bent portions of said tube or said composed section thereof are plastically straightened where it leaves said curved portion of said path, and wherein said plastical straightening of said tube or said composed section thereof when leaving said curved portion of said path occurs a single time at most for each portion of said tube or said composed section thereof.

11.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein portions of said tube or said composed section thereof proceeding along a curved section of said path are in an at least elastically deformed condition.

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12.(Previously Presented) A method for introducing a tube into a borehole in the ground, comprising the actions of:

composing said tube by connecting successive tube parts end-to-end in a connecting area, and

axially displacing at least a composed section of said tube from said connecting area towards said borehole and introducing at least a substantial portion of said tube or said composed section thereof into said borehole,

said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from the borehole, and said axial displacement of said tube or said composed section thereof from said connecting area to said borehole proceeding along an at least partially curved path, characterized in that each portion of said tube or said composed section thereof is bent to a curved shape in exclusively one direction relative to that portion of said tube.

13.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the borehole in the area of a well head is held sealed against said tube or said composed section thereof, and wherein an overpressure prevails under the sealing.

14.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein said connecting of ~~said the~~ tube parts is carried out by welding.

15.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the welding occurs in a screened space.

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16.(Previously Presented) A method for retracting or removing a tube from a borehole in the ground, comprising the actions of:

retracting at least a substantial portion of said tube from said borehole,  
axially displacing said tube from said borehole towards a connecting area, and  
disconnecting tube parts from said tube in said connecting area,  
said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from the  
borehole, and that said axial displacement of said tube from said borehole to  
said connecting area proceeding along an at least partially curved path,  
characterized in that portions of said tube or said composed section thereof  
proceeding along said curved path are bent into at most one single curve.

17.(Previously Presented) A method for retracting or removing a tube from a borehole in the ground, comprising the actions of:

retracting at least a substantial portion of said tube from said borehole,  
axially displacing said tube from said borehole towards a connecting area, and  
disconnecting tube parts from said tube in said connecting area,

said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from the borehole, and that said axial displacement of said tube from said borehole to said connecting area proceeding along an at least partially curved path, characterized in that each portion of said tube or said composed section thereof is bent to a curved shape in exclusively one direction relative to that portion of said tube.

18.(Previously Presented) An installation for composing a tube and introducing same via a well head into a borehole in the ground, comprising:

a connection structure for composing the tube by connecting successive tube parts end-to-end in a connecting area, and

B2 a transport structure for axially displacing said tube or a composed section thereof from the connection structure towards the well head, and for introducing at least a substantial portion of said tube or said composed section thereof into said well head,

said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from said well head, and said transport structure being arranged for axially displacing said tube or said composed section thereof along an at least partially curved path, characterized in that said transport structure is arranged for bending portions of said tube or said composed section thereof proceeding along said curved path into at most one single curve.

19.(Previously Presented) An installation for composing a tube and introducing same via a well head into a borehole in the ground, comprising:

a connection structure for composing the tube by connecting successive tube parts end-to-end in a connecting area, and

a transport structure for axially displacing said tube or a composed section thereof from the connection structure towards the well head, and for introducing at least a substantial portion of said tube or said composed section thereof into said well head,

said connecting area being located at least horizontally spaced away from said well head, and said transport structure being arranged for axially displacing said tube or said composed section thereof along an at least partially curved path, characterized in that said transport structure is arranged for bending each portion of said tube or said composed section thereof to a curved shape in exclusively one direction relative to that portion of said tube.

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20.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 19, wherein said connection structure is provided with a passage for receiving a tube part to be connected, said passage being located out of alignment with the well head, and said passage being oriented at an angle with respect to the well head.

21.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 20, wherein said passage is oriented horizontally.

22.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 19, wherein said transport structure comprises: a bending machine for plastically bending tube material to a curved form, having an inlet for leading in tube material to be bent, in line with a portion of said path section connected to and downstream of said connection structure.

23.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 22, wherein said transport structure further comprises a bending-back machine for plastically straightening tube material from a curved form to an at least straighter form, said bending-back machine having an outlet for leading out tube material, located in line with the well head.

B2 24.(Currently Amended) An installation according to claim 22, wherein said bending machine is reciprocable between a run-in position with an inlet for leading in tube material to be bent in line with[[.]] a supply path section connected to and downstream of the connection structure, and a run-out position along a vertical portion of said path substantially parallel to a main passage of said well head.

25.(Currently Amended) An installation according to claim 22, wherein said at least partially curved path defined by the transport structure has a smallest radius, and wherein said bending machine for plastically deforming tube material to a curved form is arranged for applying a plastic deformation which results in a radius in unloaded condition that is greater than said smallest radius of said at least partially curved path.

26.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 19, wherein said transport structure is arranged for keeping said tube in an at least spirally or helically curved configuration.

27.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 19, further comprising a sealing for sealing the well head against said tube or a composed section thereof for preventing fluid from flowing out of the borehole.

28.(Previously Presented) An installation according to claim 19, wherein said connection structure is in the form of a welding device.

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29.(Currently Amended) An installation according to claim 28, wherein the welding device  
B2 ~~comprising~~ comprises a screening surrounding the welding device.

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